

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OES-06 EPA-01 CEQ-01 DOTE-00 EB-07 CU-02 COME-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9986

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE CSCE PFOR UR SENEV ETRN ENRG
SUBJECT: ECE - SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY - SOVIET VIEWS PROVIDED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ECE DECISION B(XXXI)

REF: GENEVA 9815

1. MISSION HAS NOW SEEN COPY OF LETTER PRESENTING SOVIET VIEWS
ON SUBJECT PROPOSAL. AS STATED REFTEL, LETTER WAS HANDED TO
STANOVNIK DURING RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. MISSION HAS BEEN IN-
FORMED THAT LETTER IS DRAFT PREPARED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT NOT
YET APPROVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER. THEREFORE, DOCUMENT WILL NOT
BE CIRCULATED TO GOVERNMENTS IN PRESENT FORM. SUMMARY OF LETTER
FOLLOWS.

2. AT TIME SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS MADE (ECE 31ST SESSION, APRIL
1976, USSR WAS NOT PREPARED TO SUGGEST DETAILED AGENDAS FOR THREE
"CONGRESSES OR MEETINGS". IT MENTIONED, HOWEVER, SUCH POSSIBLE
ITEMS AS JOINT LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS IN AREAS OF PROTECTION OF
AIR WATER ENVIORNMENT, IMPROVEMENT OF ALL-EUROPEAN NETWORKS FOR
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ROAD, RAIL, WATER AND MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT, AND SUCH ENERGY PRO-
JECTS AS INTERCONNECTION OF ELECTRIC POWER AND GAS NETWORKS AND
JOINT CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE-SCALE FUEL-ENERGY COMPLEXES; AND IT
STRESSED READINESS TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS. SOVIET
AUTHORITIES "WITH DUE RESPECT", ARE STILL READY TO CONSIDER ANY
OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

3. INDEPENDENT OF SPECIFIC AGENDAS, CONGRESSES COULD ASSESS PRESENT STATE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY AREAS AND WORK OUT GUIDELINES FOR WIDENING AND IMPROVING SUCH COOPERATION. SUCH ACTION WOULD FULLY CORRESPOND TO WILL OF FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES "TO MAKE DETENTE CONTINUOUS AS WELL AS MORE VIABLE PROCESS".

4. SOVIET PROPOSAL IS "HIGHLY FLEXIBLE" RE ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS, PLACE AND DATES OF CONGRESSES. CSCE FINAL ACT ATTRIBUTES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN AREAS OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY AND MENTIONS POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH COOPERATION THROUGH EXISTING OTATIONS, IN PARTICULAR ECE, AND HOLDING OF MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. IN CHAPTER ON ENVIRONMENT, IT STATES THAT PARTICIPATING STATES WILL ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE SUCH COOPERATION INTER ALIA "BY MEANS OF ORGANIZING CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA AND MEETINGS OF EXPERTS".

5. PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AREAS OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY "DO NOT WHOLLY CORRESPOND TO TASK OF WIDENING AND DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON A QUALITATIVELY NEW BASIS". IN FACT THERE IS A "-0" BETWEEN PROVISIONS OF FINAL ACT AND SUCH ACTIVITIES. IN CASE OF ECE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE "ADDITIONAL IMPULSE" IN FORM OF DIRECTIVES ADOPTED AT HIGH LEVEL. FROM THIS POINT OF DEPARTURE, ECE COULD USE ITS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE MORE EFFECTIVELY. THEREFORE, PRESENT EFFORTS OF ECE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD FACILITATING FINDING OF OPTIMAL FRAMEWORK FOR HOLDING SUCH "INTERNATIONAL FORA" AND IN PREPARING GROUND FOR "CONSTRUCTIVE DECISION" ON QUESTION AT 32ND SESSION. END SUMMARY OF LETTER.
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6. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER ON DECEMBER 14, ECE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CHESTNOY (USSR) CONFIRMED REPORT OF WESTERN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN (REFTEL) THAT SOVIETS ASSERTEDLY DID NOT WISH TO SPECIFY ECE ROLE IN CONGRESSES BEFORE DECISION TAKEN TO HOLD SUCH MEETINGS AT HIGH (MINISTERIAL) LEVEL FOR FEAR MEETINGS WOULD BE DOWNGRADED WITHIN ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES. MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT THIS PRESENTED CHICKEN AND EGG SITUATION, WITH U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES NEEDING TO KNOW (AMONG OTHER THINGS) VENUE OF MEETINGS BEFORE TAKING DECISION. CHESTNOY SUGGESTED THAT SOME UNDERSTANDING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT TO SOLVE THIS STALEMATE. MISSION OFFICER RESPONDED THAT IF USSR HAD SERIOUS PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD, AS WELL AS RE AGENDA OF AND RATIONALE FOR MEETINGS, U.S. WAS ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN.

7. CHESTNOY ALSO USED TERM "INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES" WHICH HE NOTED WAS CONTAINED IN ENVIRONMENT SECTION OF FINAL ACT. HE SAID THAT USSR WAS NOT WEDDED TO TERM "CONGRESSES", WHICH PERHAPS

HAD DIFFERENT MEANING TO SOVIETS THAN TO WESTERNERS, OR TO GIVING PRIORITY TO ENERGY CONFERENCE, WHICH SOVIETS REALIZED PRESENTED PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR WEST IN VIEW OF ONGOING CIEC. ENVIORNMENT CONFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT BE HELD FIRST.

8. CHESTNOY SAID T AT LETTER HANDED TO STANOVNIK WAS DRAFT PREPARED IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TRANSMITTED TO FOREIGN MINISTER FOR APPROVAL. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT FINAL VERSION WOULD VARY SIGNIFICANTLY FROM DRAFT. HE SAID THAT LETTER DID NOT REFLECT WORK OF SO-CALLED KIRILLIN COMMITTEE. CHESTNOY IMPLIED, IN FACT, THAT NOTHING MIGHT RESULT FROM COMMITTEE. GROUPS OF SCIENTISTS, HE SAID, ARE NOT APT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF POLITICAL FACTORS. WORD CIRCULATING IN GENEVA IS THAT COMMITTEE HAS SO FAR TAKING DECISION TO DIVIDE ITSELF IN THREE PARTS.
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